

Dingwall Academy Parent Council

Minute of Meeting held 27th February 2017

Present

Helen Cameron	Samantha Blyth	Angela MacLean
Eileen Bice	Laura Ross	Emma Whitham
Karen Cormack	Graham Mackenzie	Margaret Paterson
Lindsay Ramsay	Alan Stewart	

Apologies

Alister Mackinnon, Stephen Mackenzie, Arlene Petrie, Jason Hasson

1. Approval of Minutes of meeting on 23rd January 2017

The minutes were proposed by Eileen Bice and seconded by Samantha Blyth.

2. Chromebook roll out

Dingwall Academy is scheduled to start the chrome book roll out in October/November. The school has been advised that all necessary infrastructure will be in place by then.

3. School Heating

The facilities company acknowledges the issue of heating in the school and is going to continue investigations in March with more monitoring stations, as the survey before Christmas didn't provide sufficient evidence.

Action 1 – Helen Cameron to make a Freedom of Information request to Highland Council to look at original building contract.

4. Equity Funding

Dingwall Academy is to receive £56,000 from the Scottish Government Pupil Equity Funding scheme. The school's staff feels very positive and empowered having the responsibility to decide how best to use the money to close the attainment gap. At present this money is sitting with the Highland Council until the school agrees a suitable plan. All Parent Council members urged the Councilors in attendance to ensure the school receives the money as soon as possible allowing them to move forward with their implementation plan.

5. School Reporting Survey Results

The Parent Council school reporting survey received 205 responses and encouragingly the majority of responses were very positive. It is clear from the results that parents really value both reports and parents night and welcome more opportunities to receive updates and information on their child's progress.

Action 2 – Emma to attend reporting group meeting to discuss outcome of survey

Action 3 – Emma to write update/feedback for parents

6. Google Classroom

Karen Cormack advised that Google Classroom is a tool already being used at Dingwall Academy. At present 27 teachers currently use this to communicate with their pupils. There is scope to extend communications to include parents, which was welcomed by the Parent Council, however, there was concern that this shouldn't add to the teacher's workload and should be more about informing parents rather than creating an opportunity for conversation. The Parent Council overall thought this was a positive advancement for the school and strongly advised this should become mandatory for all teachers to get on board. It was acknowledged that varying degrees of support and training are required to make this aspiration a reality.

7. Treasurers Report

Not much change in accounts compared to meeting last month with £2866.61 in current account and £78.36 in deposit account, giving a total of £2944.97.

8. Spring Fair

Organising is well underway with securing of raffle prizes, banners updated, information in latest school newsletter and S2 have started working on their stalls.

Karen Cormack has agreed to offer incentives to the pupils to sell raffle tickets, including the chance to be head teacher for the day!

Action 4 – Emma parent rota

Action 5 – Helen buy bottle of bottle stall

Action 6 – Karen to arrange sausages and burgers

Action 7 – Alister to arrange rolls from Tesco

Action 8 – Sam to arrange raffle tickets and prizes

Action 9 – Sam to arrange wrist bands and inflatables

Action 10 – Sam to action Facebook campaign

Action 11 – Sam to arrange first aiders

9. Race Night

Due to availability of compare this event has been rescheduled to Friday 2nd June.

10. School Cafe

Karen Cormack shared a project idea to develop a café in the school. This would result in an existing room within the school being converted into a café and would see the pupils both managing and running the café. The facilities company has agreed to this change and the investment required for conversion is estimated to be £15,000, this is based on a similar project Invergordon Academy has completed. This project would have wide ranging benefits, including linking to the employability agenda, an extra HFT resource and an extra meeting space. The Parent Council unanimously agreed to financially support this venture and to discuss exact sum after the spring fair.

The date of next meeting is May 8th 2017 at 7pm

Tasks Requiring Action

Action	Task	Who
1	FOI to HC school building contract	Helen Cameron
2	Attend School Reporting Group meeting	Emma Whitham
3	Feedback survey results to parents	Emma Whitham
4	Spring Fair parent rota	Emma Whitham
5	Purchase bottles for bottle stall	Helen Cameron
6	Order sausages and burgers	Karen Cormack
7	Order rolls from Tesco	Alister Mackinnon
8	Spring Fair raffle	Samantha Blyth
9	Arrange wrist bands and inflatables	Samantha Blyth
10	Start Facebook campaign for fair	Samantha Blyth
11	Arrange first aiders for Spring Fair	Samantha Blyth